

Water Conservation Order: Te Waikoropupū Springs and Associated Waterbodies

Submission Reference no: 192

Gen Rippingale

Submitter Type: Individual

Source: Web Form

Overall Notes:

Clause

The specific parts of the application that my/our submission relates to are:

Notes

a) significance in accordance with tikanga Māori; b) outstanding cultural and spiritual values; c) visual clarity values; d) scientific and ecological values; e) biodiversity values; f) habitat for aquatic organisms and stygofauna; g) habitat for indigenous fauna; h) habitat for indigenous flora; i) recreational values; and j) wild, scenic and natural characteristics.

Clause

What is/are your view/s on the application?

Position

Support

Notes

I support the application made by Ngāti Tama Ki Te Waipounamu Trust and Andrew Yuill for a Water Conservation Order (the Order) for Te Waikoropupū Springs and associated water bodies. I support that the Special Tribunal to the Minister for the Environment grant the order, as requested in the application. Golden Bay, with its isolated geography and discrete catchments, is exceptionally well placed to adopt sustainable land use practices for agriculture that reduce chemical inputs and effectively filter runoff. Sustainable land use practices are the best ongoing protection for the Springs. They would also create a valuable marketing opportunity for Golden Bay produce and related products. Te Waikoropupū Springs are a national treasure and of international importance and their genuine and ongoing protection is a matter of urgency. I request that: - Their significance be recognised and permanent protection orders be put in place without delay - The Springs never be permitted to fall below their natural levels. - Urgent and significant ongoing steps are taken to reduce nitrate and fertiliser levels in the Springs and prevent these and other damaging substances from entering the aquifer and its catchment - there be no increase in water takes for irrigation, commercial bottling, intensive farming including current dairying practices and gold mining - Steps be urgently taken to reduce silt runoff entering the Spring's ecosystem and to restore oxygen levels to their waters to their natural levels I ask that: Ngati Tama's voice as Kaitiaki (guardian) of Te Waikoropupū be valued and respected; That the spiritual presence that manifests at Te Waikoropupū be afforded protection; That steps be urgently taken to reduce the nitrate pollution entering the aquifer as a result of intensive dairy farming; Steps be urgently taken to replenish the reducing levels of dissolved oxygen in the aquifer as a result of intensive dairy farming; Steps be taken to reduce the levels of silt washing into the aquifer following heavy rain as a result of intensive dairy farming; Steps be taken to reduce the length of the extended intensive dairy season which is causing faeces and nitrate to wash into the aquifer during the heavy autumn rains; I ask that urgent and practical steps be taken to reduce the size of intensive dairy herds; I ask that the amount of fertiliser used in the Takaka valley be reduced and regulated; That no further water rights be granted to intensive farmers; and after a 5 year period, all water rights be reduced; That intensive farmers be encouraged to follow the example of sustainable farmers who have reduced herd sizes, reduced fertiliser use, sown heritage grasses, farm without irrigation and yet are still able to make a healthy income; I ask that the tiny creatures and bugs (stygofauna) within the aquifer be fully protected. It is the stygofauna who clean the waters and create the crystal clear flow we see at Te Waikoropupū. Too much nitrate pollution and not enough dissolved oxygen will kill the stygofauna. I ask that this precious ecosystem be fully protected.

Clause

I/we seek the following recommendation from the Special Tribunal to the Minister for the Environment

Position

Grant the order

Notes

The Springs and their larger ecosystem are too precious to not fully protect.

Clause

Would you like to present your views on this submission to the Special Tribunal at a public hearing?

Position

I/we do not want to present my/our views at a public hearing

Notes

The submitter have elected to withhold their personal details from publication.